THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d) The project report for Modernisation of Hirakud Dam (distribution system) was received from the State Government of Orissa in December, 1984 for techno-economic appraisal. Due to non compliance of observation of CWC, the scheme was sent back to the State Government in April, 1989 for submission of modified report. The modified report has not been received. However, some components of the project, namely improvements to main system and Bhim Tikra, Parmanpur, Barrgarh and Resam distributaries at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.91 crores have been included in Water Resources Consolidation Project of Orissa which has been given investment clearance by the Planning Commission in September, 1995 for an estimated cost of Rs. 977.00 crores. The project has been taken up with the financial assistance from the World Bank under an agreement signed in January, 1996. The closing date of the World Bank credit is September, 2002.

Operation Black Board

3836. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class rooms constructed in Orissa under 'Operation Black Board Programme' during each of the last three years;

(b) whether State Government has sought-any financial assistance under the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to information furnished by the State Govt., the number of class rooms constructed in Orissa under Operation Blackboard Scheme during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Class rooms constructed
1993-94	04
1994-95	2826
1995-96	1744

(b) to (d) The position regarding financial assistance sanctioned to the State Govt. under the Operation Blackboard Scheme from 1987-88 to 1995-96 and utilisation of funds is given below:

S. No.	Item	Funds Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Utilised (Rs. in lakhs)
I.	Teaching Learning Equipment to 34178 Primary Schools.	2484.79	1947.81
II.	Salary for 14112 additional Teachers Sanctioned for Single Teacher Schools.	12212.42	12212.42

Plan to Deprive India of Modern Weapons

3837. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bharat Ko Adhunic Hathiaron Se Vanchit Rakhne ki Nai Chal" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 5 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government maintains that ad-hoc export control regimes that lack transparency and do not take into account the legitimate demands for access to technology for economic development are discriminatory. The Government will follow the functioning of the Wassenaar Arrangement which came into being on 11-12 July 1996.

(c) The Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits of Former Prime Minister

3838. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao during the last three years; and

(b) the purpose of each visit and the achievements made during each of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). A statement is enclosed.